

IN THE WOMAN'S WORLD

"MUGGINS" DAVIES TALKS OF STAGE; GOOD ADVICE TO GIRLS

Points Out Rocky Road the "Stage-Struck" Must Follow

The last time I met a young lady whose occupation is entertaining the public, with a view to recording her savings and my impressions, was at a soda water fountain, and I considered the setting good.

But here was a better one: a regular at fresco with the white sand and the blue Pacific Ocean lapping the shore at Waikiki, as the stage and the drop; the cottages occupied by the Ferris Hartman company as the scenic effects, and little "Muggins" Davies in the center of the stage, and—bless her royal heart—I hope never to hear of her playing anywhere else on the boards. The occasion of my visit is here in this interview.

Miss Davies met me with outstretched arms and greeted me as one glad to meet a stranger.

"But you must excuse my costume; it's so very warm, and we have been rehearsing, which seems to send the temperature higher, so there is nothing so comfortable to me as this bathing suit," she said as we met at the door of the big cottage where the rehearsals go on. "A coincident, really, that you should want to interview me when we are preparing to put on 'The Toy Maker,' the play in which I made my first appearance, as the old play bills used to have it, 'on the stage.'"

There was no apology due me for Miss Davies' lack of warmer clothing; my heart was in her keeping, and it mattered not to me what she wore; she was cute any way you found her, I fancied, and told her so.

Back of the Footlights. "My sister, Mrs. Hartman, has been on the stage for ever so long; why, I seemed to be only a little bit of a girl when she came from rehearsal one

day and told me there was a chance for me to go on the stage in 'The Toy Maker,' as they wanted a girl small enough to be the little doll. Apparently, I was small enough, and I am teeny-weeny still, but I went on as the doll and was not a bit scared, either. The next season I played the doll a size larger. There was quite a run of the musical comedy, and I stuck it out and regretted when the company left San Francisco, my home town. When I grew up there were other chances, and I do not remember missing any of them, because I was like a good many other girls in that respect and quite as foolish, I guess, for I leaned toward the stage. Of course, I was not allowed to play so much that it would interfere with my studies at school. Just after the earthquake Mr. De Leon got stage fever and quit his studies at the University of California for a career on the stage. Just then Idora Park was his Mecca; at least, that is where he first played; and Mr. Hartman, who had married my sister, was the star. I was around the park so much and always seen with Mrs. Hartman's two children, that Mr. De Leon concluded it was the nurse in waiting.

Studied to Be a Doll.

"I, too, had my eye on the stage, though still a girl at school, and I was given a chance to study the part of the big doll, so that if the young girl who had it, for any reason, did not appear at the theater, I was to go on. The chance came at a matinee one Saturday and I met with a cordial reception; so cordial, indeed, that I felt complimented and willing to take the part forever and ever, or as much longer as salaries were coming. Anyhow, the next week there was a request for me to appear again at the matinee, though the young lady for the part was well and willing. That appeared to settle it for me as far as

going to school and playing nurse to my sister's baby was concerned, and I immediately adopted the stage as a profession."

Origin of "Muggins."

Miss Davies' account of her successes were interesting. Among other things she told me how she came by the name of "Muggins." "Mr. Hartman first met me when I was six years old and nicknamed me 'Muggins,' which just fitted me, I guess, for everybody calls me by it."

When speaking of Mr. De Leon and their stage career together, Miss Davies said, "I had not played long with Walter before there were spoons, and from spoons to the altar was but a short step in this case. I have always told him, however, that I shall never forgive him for thinking that I was a nurse girl. We have played together since our marriage, generally playing opposite parts, and of all I have been called upon to essay, I think I like the adventurous best, although I sometimes feel that I do not do my best in them."

Her Career Full of Work.

Many young girls on the stage these days climb over the bars of the dramatic schools but such was not the case with Miss Davies. She began at the bottom, crawled under the tent as it were, and played by easy stages the gamut of life. "While studying the stage career in this way," said she, "one is absorbing the real thing, the little niceties of stage life and taking them in with every breath. In time one becomes so thoroughly imbued with the things connected with theatricals whether it be comedy, musical comedy or drama that it must be hard to break from it."

"Two of my sisters are on the stage and doing well because they have talent. As for the average girl who sees the chorus girl dancing, a leading lady starring in a tragedy or part or subterfuge winning plaudits and comes to the point that she would adopt the stage as a profession, I think I would say 'Don't' to her, and I would spell it big. One should remember that it is mainly successes one sees. The failures are in the 'lingerie' or 'dapping' in the gloves in a department store and are not heard of. They are not among those who are asked for advice on this subject. The main reason for my giving advice of this character is because not more than one in twenty, or may I say fifty, girls is willing to devote the hours to study that a stage career demands. They fall down in their lines and are given the usual notice—or summarily discharged—according to the contract, or the will of the mahager.

"One thing should be borne in mind. To the man or woman on the stage there is comparatively little of the sweet home life that is enjoyed by men in the professions or in business. We are on the go nearly all

the time and we live in a trunk. Of course, we sometimes play for three or four months in a city, and then we have real life. We take a flat and have our kitchenette and the rarebit that follows the performance. Ah! that is the time stage life thrills and I want never to give it up, until we get out on the road doing one-night stands, to bed late and up early to catch a train. You see, we are domestic, and as much as it is possible we have home on the road for there's Mr. Hartman and his wife, who is my sister, and Mr. and Mrs. Albuckle. Then I have my husband and his mother, Mrs. De Leon, so that on occasions we have real family parties, and, whisper, we are in the midst of one this moment, for my sister's little girl is enjoying her sixth birthday anniversary, dividing the honors with Mother De Leon, who celebrates hers also, but I am not going to tell you how many she has enjoyed in the past."

Perhaps you can get an idea from this of what a superior little woman Muggins is. And while she married Mr. De Leon at sixteen, she must have been much at school before then or applied herself, diligently, and her training speaks for her parents through her refined bearing, her quiet manner and the softness of her speech. I am not going to refer to her as a beautiful young girl unless it is in reference to her character. That, I risk a guess, is sweetly pretty. Something was said about dresses, reference being made to her stage costumes when she convinced me with a word that she was not dependent upon dressmakers for her gowns. And she backed up her assertions that she could sew like fury by exhibiting the model of a beautiful costume she had just completed and all with her own delicate hands. "I just love to sew," she assured me, "and I make many of my street and stage gowns and wraps. So long as I have no new part to study I find making dresses a capital occupation and economical one."

"Do I intend to remain on the stage all of the time? Oh, no, both Walter and I are planning to build a home in Los Angeles, where we both wish to live."

Needless to say, Mr. and Mrs. De Leon, as well as the rest of the members of the company are immensely pleased with Honolulu; as they have found the people very hospitable. Already there have been theatre parties and suppers at the cafe, where members of the Smart Set have entertained for some of the "principles" in the troupe.

HARTMAN'S GUESTS AT GAY DINNER-PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. Ferris Hartman, Walter De Leon, Mrs. De Leon and "Muggins" Davies were guests at a gay dinner party at the Ritz-Carlton following the performance last night. The members of a dinner party at the Opera House were the dinner guests. They were Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. James Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dillingham, William Roth, Mrs. Richard Ivers and George Davies.

RECREATIONS

"TOYMAKERS" LAST. HARTMAN MATINEE

The Ferris Hartman company will give its last matinee tomorrow afternoon when "The Toy Maker" is staged. The company will close the engagement on Thursday. The matinee Saturday afternoon is one which will delight the kiddies as there are lots of dolls, toys and other things which attract youngsters. The plot is woven around a young man who wishes to become a monk, which is just what his uncle doesn't want him to do. He joins the monastery and finds it very poor and in need of money. His uncle has disinherited him but promises to give him a large sum of money if he will marry. The uncle in the meantime has made a doll and given it to a girl. She breaks the doll and is afraid to tell, so decides to take its place and the play ends when the monk hears about the beautiful doll and how she is so natural that no one can tell her from a real live girl and he makes up his mind to marry the doll and get the money for the monastery. The ending is happy and the musical numbers a treat.

The entire company will star in this production and Ferris Hartman, Walter De Leon, Roscoe Arbuckle and Harry Bowes, Muggins Davies, Minta Durfee and Josie Hartman with their interpretations of the roles will make it a "worth while" play.

The report that Ferris Hartman was injured in the street car accident last night was a mistake. Jack Raynes, the musical director, was the victim. He was badly cut about the face and shoulders.

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SAM PARKER PAYS \$5 FOR POI BOWLS

SAN FRANCISCO—Sam Parker, Hawaiian millionaire and sponsor for the old royal family, had his peace of mind greatly disturbed yesterday when Camillo Solari, the restaurateur, demanded his poi bowls back again or the equivalent in cash. Parker was about to leave the Stewart hotel when Solari made his demand, and so effective was the Italian's persistency in demanding that the Hawaiian open up his trunks and give back to him his treasured china that the sugar planter almost missed the steamship Wilhelmina.

Parker has been in the habit of storing his cans of poi, the national breakfast food, in Solari's kitchen. On occasion, when he intended to dine outside, he usually had a portion of poi placed in a bowl and tied in a napkin. The Hawaiian always carries this portion of the menu with him, even when invited to a friend's house.

Solari claimed yesterday that none of the bowls Parker has been using to accompany his favorite food have been returned, and so stopped the capitalist at the door of the hotel with a demand for their return or \$5 in cash. Parker was angry and said things that might have been heard even to the waterfront, but he paid the money, while Solari sat on his trunks.

GIRL FALLS 60 FEET INTO WELL; UNINJURED

SAN ANDREAS, Cal., Aug. 17.—Miss Sarah Gallagher, an Oakland school teacher, fell sixty feet down a well shaft into four feet of water last evening and was rescued virtually uninjured.

Miss Gallagher was raising a bucket of water when the well cover gave way. Her sister and aged mother summoned help and she was pulled out.

MARINE BAND COMING.

The Royal Marine Band, which has been playing for some time in Los Angeles, will leave about the first of the year for a tour of the world. A private car has been engaged for the trip to San Francisco, from which point the band will sail for Honolulu. R. W. Jones will be in charge of the trip.

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